

2022 Center for Health Care Ethics  
Distinguished Lecture

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# Disability, Beauty, & Health Care Ethics: An Impractical Theological Proposal?

Is there a properly Christian and distinctively Catholic way of thinking, speaking, and arguing about “disability”? Could an answer to that question help us think about the ministry of Catholic health care and the work of Catholic health care ethicists?

In this presentation Dr. Romero

- discusses the concept ‘disability’ in relation to the discursive mores of biomedical ethics;
- he introduces Aquinas’s way of thinking about the ‘fittingness’ of our natural vulnerability to impairment, illness, and injury amid the unfolding drama of the history of grace;
- he concludes with a question, followed by a modest proposal

Does the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ make any practical difference in the way Catholic Christians perform the work of mercy called ‘health care’? If so, what is that difference?



Dr. Miguel J. Romero is associate professor of Religious & Theological Studies at Salve Regina University (Newport, RI). He serves on the board of New Wine, New Wineskins (a forum for early career Catholic moral theologians) and he recently completed his second term on the board of directors for the National Catholic Partnership on Disability. Romero works in the areas of Catholic moral theology, theological method, and the thought of Thomas Aquinas—focusing on disability, Catholic social teaching, and liberation theology. His writing has appeared in journals like *The Thomist*, *Nova et Vetera*, *The Journal of Moral Theology*, and *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*. Romero’s forthcoming book is titled *Destiny of the Wounded Creature: St. Thomas Aquinas on Disability*.

**December 2, 2022 | 3:00pm CST**  
**Adorjan Hall 142**